his hearers. He was greatly applauded, but this was all the fruit which he derived from it.[1]

Belief of the Ottawas

Besides the obstacle to the efficacy of the word of God raised by the harsh and fierce disposition of the Indians of those parts, the missionary found them all as superstitious as the Ottawas. He relates, in his letters, that passing one day through a village of the latter nation, he saw an idol erected in the middle of the square, and all the people engaged in sacrificing dogs to it, to obtain the cure of a contagious disease, of which several had already died. Some also brought offerings for other necessities ; and besides these public sacrifices, private ones were also made in the cabins. But the missionary does not explain what this divinity was, and perhaps he could not learn any thing certain in regard to it.[2]

When the Ottawas are overtaken by a storm, while crossing these lakes, they kill a dog or some other animal and throw it into the water, saying to the god of the lake : " Be appeased ; here is my dog that I give thee." At first the neophytes did the same thing in honor of the true God ; and it cost no little pains to persuade them that He did not wish to be adored in that manner. The blindness of these people went so far as to believe that the sun was a man, but of a kind far superior to us, and that the moon was his wife. They said the same of ice and snow, who, they pretended, went during summer to reside in another country.[3]

They also imagined that birds had a language of their own, which some men understood : their medicine-men, apparently, making them believe that they possessed the key. They said that the soul of a dead fish entered the body of another fish. Accordingly, they did not burn the

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[1] At this assembly he delivered three presents in the name of de Tracy—first, that he was going to punish the Iroquois ; second, that he would force the Sioux to peace ; and third, exhorting them to embrace Christianity : Relation, 1665, p. 9 ; 1667, p. 10.

[2] Relation de la N. F., 1667, p. 12.

[3] Ib.